



# "Big Dreams Small Business" NEWS

## "Nothing is Permanent but Change"

Who knew how well this quote from an ancient Greek philosopher could be applied to activities at the Small Business Solutions Development Center (SSBDC) today. In this issue, we highlight several recent changes affecting the 8(a) contracts and the new size standards that govern all small businesses.

The SSBDC recently issued modifications to extend our 211 contracts until October 31, 2004.

Also included in each modification was a raise in the ceiling rate from \$90 million to \$126 million per contract. Lastly, the modification included instructions on preparation of cost recovery reports and fee collection. As of this issue, we are proud to say we received 209 signed modifications from our

contract holders.

Most recently, the 8(a) contracts were modified to include the GSA Ombudsman in the contract.

In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) 16.5, disputes related to matters affecting order award may be directed to the Ombudsman. Please visit the SSBDC website at [www.fast.sdc.gsa.gov](http://www.fast.sdc.gsa.gov) for information regarding the GSA Ombudsman and the contract extension modification.

Effective October 1, 2000, Small Business Size Standards for all Federal Government programs became those that SBA established for industries as described in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Size Standards for industries described in the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) no longer apply.

For additional information about this change, please visit SBA's Office of Size Standards at [www.sba.gov/size](http://www.sba.gov/size).

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Just a reminder, be sure to register for the following 2001 events:

**The GSA/FTS Network Services Conference, Apr 2-4, Las Vegas, NV, [www.afcea.org](http://www.afcea.org)**

**The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual SBA Conference & Expo, May 7-9, Washington, DC**

**The GSA/FSS Product & Services Expo, May 22-24, Orlando, FL, [www.expo.gsa.gov](http://www.expo.gsa.gov)**

**The Dept. of Defense Small Business Conference & Expo, Dec 3-7, Las Vegas, NV, [www.sadbuconferences.com](http://www.sadbuconferences.com)**